

**The United States Department of Energy
announces the availability for public review of a document relating to
the Inactive Hazardous Waste Site
Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of a document relating to the environmental restoration activities at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). The *Final Record of Decision For Area of Concern 9: Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR)* is available at the libraries listed below and also electronically at <http://www.bnl.gov/bgrr/>. There is no public comment period for this document.

The Record of Decision (ROD) presents DOE's selection of the cleanup action for the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR). The BGRR, which was the first reactor in the U.S. built solely to perform experiments, operated from 1950 to 1968. The BGRR complex consists of several structures and systems that were used to operate and maintain the research reactor.

As the result of its operations, some parts of the equipment, structures, and associated soils are contaminated. The BGRR currently contains approximately 8,047 Curies of radioactive contaminants. These include hydrogen-3 (tritium) and carbon-14, and fission products cesium -137 and strontium-90. The pile and biological shield contain over 99 percent of the remaining radiological inventory in the BGRR complex.

To date, about 47 Curies of contaminants have been removed through previous removal actions. The majority (about 8,044 Curies) of the remaining 8,047 Curies are bound within the graphite pile and biological shield.

The DOE has decided to remove the pile, biological shield, fuel canal

structure, and contaminants that pose a threat of exposure through excavation of soils and potential migration to groundwater. This will significantly reduce the threat to human health and the environment.

The selected remedial action was presented to the public for review and comment from August 2 through September 3, 2004. The ROD contains a Responsiveness Summary, which documents public comments on the proposed remedial actions. It also contains DOE responses to those comments and changes made as a result of them.

Environmental remediation at the Laboratory is carried out under requirements of the federal *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* of 1980, commonly known as the Superfund Law.

Remediation work is conducted under an interagency agreement between DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The DOE owns BNL and funds cleanup at the site.

Located in Upton, N.Y., BNL is classified as an Inactive Hazardous Waste Site by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. BNL is on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List.

The *Final Record of Decision For Area of Concern 9: Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR)* is available at the following libraries:

Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Public Library
301 William Floyd Parkway
Shirley, NY
(631) 399-1511

BNL Research Library
Building 477A
Upton, NY
(631) 344-3483

U.S. EPA, Region II Library
290 Broadway
New York, NY
(212) 637-4296

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